

Davidson Ditch Waste Weir
Mile 63 of Alaska's Steese Highway
Chatanika Vicinity
Fairbanks County
Alaska

HAER No. AK-5

HAER
AK,
16 CHAT.V
1-

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

HAER
AK,
6-CHAT.V,
1-

HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD

DAVIDSON DITCH WASTE WEIR

HAER AK-5

Date: 1925-1928

Location: The Davidson Ditch was built to carry water by gravity flow from the upper Chatanika River to the gold mining operations at Chatanika, Cleary and Fox. The ditch was approximately 86 miles long. The waste weir being document is located at mile 63 of Alaska's Steese Highway.

Engineer/Builders: Designed by consulting engineer J. B. Lippincott of Los Angeles, CA., and built by the Fairbanks Exploration Co.

Significance: The Davidson Ditch was among the State's earliest long distance aqueducts and it played an important role in the development of Alaska's gold-mining industry. J.B. Lippincott, consulting engineer for the project, was assistant chief engineer on the Los Angeles Aqueduct completed in 1913 and a man of international reputation in the world of hydraulic engineering. Further data on his relationship with the Davidson Ditch may be found at the Water Resources Center Archives, University of California, Berkeley.

Trnasmitted by: Gary R. Arabak, 1983.